THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Indian Mission and Posts in Afghanistan have sensitized Afghan authorities of the threat to Indian nationals working on various projects in Afghanistan. The Indian nationals are advised by the Mission and concerned Posts to exercise prudence regarding the security of their persons and premises. As regards security of our Embassy at Kabul, appropriate arrangements have been made for providing necessary security.

Companies supplying bottled water

†*255. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies in the country engaged in supplying bottled water;

(b) the number of companies out of them which do not possess I.S.I. Certification;

(c) the grounds on which such companies are engaged in the business of selling bottled water;

(d) whether Government would prescribe standards for bottled water keeping in view the health of the public; and

(e) if so, by when and the reasons for delay for putting the same in place?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The number of companies supplying Bottled Water in the country is not known to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). However, BIS has granted 997 licences for manufacturing Packaged Drinking Water and 8 licences for Packaged Natural Mineral Water under its Certification Marks Scheme.

(c) Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water were brought under Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Indian Standards through Gazette Notification No.GSR 759(E) and GSR 760(E) with effect from 29th March, 2001 issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. According to the notifications, no person is authorized to manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water except under Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Marks. Hence, the sale of the Bottled Water by the manufacturers not having BIS Certification Marks Licence is illegal and unauthorized. The State Health Authorities are required to take appropriate action against such manufacturers under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules framed thereunder.

(d) and (e) BIS has already evolved Indian Standard IS:14543 for Packaged Drinking Water and Indian Standard IS: 13428 for Packaged Natural Mineral Water. These two standards were published in the year 1998 and made mandatory with effect from 29 March, 2001.

National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

*256. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for repairing of National Highway in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the allocation of fund for the same, District-wise; and

(c) by when, the same is likely to be sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Repair and maintenance of National Highways are continuous activities and are taken up depending on the condition of the road, traffic intensity, *inter-se* priority and overall availability of funds.

(b) and (c) During the current financial year an amount of Rupees 5787.04 lakh has been allocated out of which 5737.04 lakh have already been released for the repair and maintenance of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh. Funds are not allocated district-wise.